

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF CHARLTON KINGS

A N N U A L R E P O R T

OF THE

M E D I C A L O F F I C E R O F H E A L T H



STAFF:

Medical Officer of Health:

STEPHEN KNIGHT

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Sanitary Inspector:

W. L. BOOY

Certified Sanitary Inspector

Certified Meat & Other Foods Inspector



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CHARLTON KINGS URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

A N N U A L R E P O R T

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR 1951

To the Chairman and Members of the Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies & Gentlemen,

I beg to submit the Annual Report on the health of the district for 1951.

The Registrar-General's estimate of the population, 5,795, is a fall of 108 as compared with last year.

Births numbered 63, some 20 fewer than in 1950, the Birth Rate declining to 10.9. This is a low figure compared with the national rate, 15.5. Even when allowance is made for the elderly age distribution in the district the corrected birth rate is only 11.7.

Deaths increased by 4 to 98, making the Death Rate 16.9, but here again owing to the high proportion of elderly people in the district the corrected death rate, 12.8 should be used for purposes of comparison, this rate is much the same as the national figure, 12.5.

Four infants died in their first year, an Infantile Mortality Rate of 63 as compared with the rate for England and Wales of 29.6.

The local rate is unpleasantly high but the numbers involved are very small and one death causes a big increase in the rate. Last year there were only two such deaths, the rate then being 24.

It is to be noted that no less than three of these infants died in the neonatal period within four weeks of birth, the cause of death being given as prematurity in two cases.

Antenatal care of the mother, housing and economic factors have a big influence on the neonatal death rate.

The district was free of the more serious forms of infectious disease; measles was prevalent, 79 cases being notified, but no deaths occurred.

Twenty-two houses were built during the year, making a total of 102 built by the Council since the war. Six houses were built by private enterprise during 1951 and twenty Council houses are in course of erection.

I am glad to take this opportunity of thanking the members of the Council for their consideration and the staff for their co-operation and help throughout the year.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies & Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,

STEPHEN KNIGHT.

Medical Officer of Health.

August, 1952.

CHARLTON KINGS URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the Urban District of Charlton Kings for the year 1954.

STATISTICS & SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area (in acres)	3,399
Registrar-General's estimate of mid-year population (including Members of Armed Forces)	5,795
Number of Inhabited Houses	1,802
Rateable Value, 31.12.51	£42,849
Sum represented by a penny rate	£173

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR

LIVE BIRTHS

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Legitimate	56	30	26
Illegitimate	7	6	1
Total	63	36	27
Birth Rate per 1,000 of the population	...	10.9	
Area Comparability Factor (Births)	...	1.07	
Corrected Birth Rate	...	11.7	

STILL BIRTHS

Legitimate	3	2	1
Illegitimate	-	-	-
Total	3	2	1
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 of the population	...	0.5	
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	...	45.	

<u>DEATHS</u>	98	54	44
Death rate per 1,000 of the population	...	16.9	
Area Comparability Factor (Deaths)	...	0.76	
Corrected Death Rate	...	12.8	

NO. 30 DEATHS FROM PREGNANCY, CHILDBIRTH, ABORTION

<u>Deaths</u>	<u>Rate per 1,000 total (Live & Still) Births</u>		
Nil	Nil		
<u>DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE</u> <u>(Infantile Death Rate)</u>			
	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Legitimate	3	-	3
Illegitimate	1	1	-
Total	4	1	3
All Infants per 1,000 Live Births	...	...	63.

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER FOUR WEEKS OF AGE (Neonatal Mortality)

Legitimate	2	-	2
Illegitimate	1	1	-
Total	3	1	2
Rate per 1,000 Live Births	...	...	47.

CAUSES OF DEATH

The causes of death in the following table are classified under the Abbreviated List of the International Statistical Classification:

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	1	-
2. Tuberculosis, other	-	-
3. Syphilitic disease	-	-
4. Diphtheria	-	-
5. Whooping cough	-	-
6. Meningococcal infections	-	-
7. Acute poliomyelitis	-	-
8. Measles	-	-
9. Other infective & parasitic diseases	-	-
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	1	3
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	3	-
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	4
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-	-
14. Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms	6	3
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	-	-
16. Diabetes	1	1
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	8	10
18. Coronary disease, angina	7	2
19. Hypertension with heart disease	4	2
Total carried forward	<u>31</u>	<u>25</u>

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Brought forward	31	25
20. Other heart disease	9	8
21. Other circulatory disease	1	-
22. Influenza	-	3
23. Pneumonia	1	1
24. Bronchitis	2	1
25. Other diseases of respiratory system	-	-
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1	-
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	-	1
28. Nephritis and nephrosis	1	-
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	1	-
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	-	-
31. Congenital malformations	-	1
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	6	3
33. Motor vehicle accidents	-	-
34. All other accidents	-	-
35. Suicide	1	1
36. Homicide and operations of war	-	-
Total	<u>54</u>	<u>44</u>

Total both male and female ... 98.

BIRTH, DEATH AND INFANTILE MORTALITY RATES FOR
THE LAST FIVE YEARS

	<u>1947</u>	<u>1948</u>	<u>1949</u>	<u>1950</u>	<u>1951</u>
Birth Rate					
(per 1,000 population)	15.4	16.7	13.7	13.7	10.9
Death Rate					
(per 1,000 population)	16.0	13.0	13.4	15.6	16.9
Infantile Mortality Rate					
(Per 1,000 live births)					
(Deaths of Infants under one year)	54.0	50.0	62.0	24.1	63.0
Neonatal Mortality					
(per 1,000 Live Births)					
(Deaths of Infants under four weeks)				12.0	47.0

FOR COMPARISON, THE BIRTH, DEATH AND INFANTILE
MORTALITY RATES OF ENGLAND AND WALES, ETC.
ARE GIVEN BELOW

	<u>England</u> <u>& Wales</u>	<u>126 C.Bs.</u> <u>and Great</u> <u>Towns</u>	<u>County</u> <u>of Glos.</u>	<u>Charlton</u> <u>Kings</u> <u>U.D.</u>
Live Births	15.5	17.3	15.5	10.9
Still Births (per 1,000 population)	0.36	0.45	.	0.5
Death Rate (per 1,000 population)	12.5	13.4	11.98	16.9
Infantile Mortality Rate (Deaths of Infants under 1 Yr.)(Per 1,000 live Births)	29.6	33.9	26.59	63.0
Neonatal Mortality Rate (Deaths of Infants under 1 Month) (Per 1,000 live births)			17.53	47.0

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS
AND OTHER DISEASES

1. INFECTIOUS DISEASES, OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS

General Statistics

The following tables show the number of cases of infectious diseases notified during the year:

	<u>Under</u>		<u>1 - 5</u>		<u>5 - 15</u>		<u>15 - 25</u>		<u>25 and</u>	<u>Age Not</u>		
	<u>1 Yr.</u>								<u>upwards</u>	<u>Known</u>	<u>Total</u>	
	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>
Scarlet Fever	-	-	1	-	2	1	3	-	-	-	5	1
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	-	1	4	4	1	4	-	-	-	-	5	9
Measles	2	-	23	12	25	15	-	-	1	-	51	28
Pneumonia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	3	3	3
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-
Cerebro spinal fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dysentery	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Puerperal pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Polio myelitis Paralytic	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Non-paralytic	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

2. TUBERCULOSIS

There were 8 new cases and one death from tuberculosis as compared with 7 new cases and two deaths in 1950.

Adequate housing of a family with an infectious patient is most important in preventing the spread of the disease.

In the case of tuberculosis a medical recommendation for rehousing is concerned not only with the health of the patient but also with health of the other members of the family. If young adults or children are at risk because of bad housing conditions the highest priority should be given for rehousing the family.

New Cases.

	<u>Children</u>		<u>All Persons</u>
	0 - 4	5 - 14	
Pulmonary	-	1	7
Non-pulmonary	-	-	1

Deaths

Pulmonary	-	-	1
Non-pulmonary	-	-	-

The number of cases on the Register, 31st December, 1951 was as follows:-

Males	<u>Pulmonary</u>		Males	<u>Non-Pulmonary</u>		<u>All Forms</u>
	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>		<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Total</u>
14	12	26	4	1	5	31

IMMUNISATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA

No less than 73 children were immunised during the year as compared with 50 in 1950, the number immunised is greater than the natural increase so that the percentage of immunised children rose from 83 to 87.

While the overall picture is satisfactory, only 7 babies out of 63 were immunised before their first birthday.

Although there were no cases of diphtheria in Charlton Kings outbreaks did occur elsewhere and it is only the high level of immunisation that keeps the disease under.

Freedom from the disease in a community can only be ensured providing 75% of babies are immunised before they are a year old.

Actual cases being few, young parents are no longer acquainted with the severity of the disease and the fear of diphtheria has declined.

To maintain the high state of immunisation which is required the campaign for immunisation needs constant support.

Diphtheria Immunisation in Relation to Child Population

Number of children who have completed a full course of immunisation to 31st December, 1951:

Age at 31/12/51	<u>Under</u> <u>1 Yr.</u>								<u>Total</u> <u>Under</u>
e.g. born in year:	<u>1951</u>	<u>1950</u>	<u>1949</u>	<u>1948</u>	<u>1947</u>	<u>42 - 46</u>	<u>37 - 41</u>		<u>15</u>
No. immunised	(7	50	66	60	87)	(395	398)	
Total No. immunised	(		270		)	(	793	)	1,063
Estimated mid-year population		425					788		1,213

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1948 - CLEAN FOOD

There was only one case of food poisoning. The national campaign for clean food is having effect, public opinion is aroused and the general public is demanding clean methods in the preparation and handling of food.

The risks of outbreaks of food poisoning are greatly increased when there is communal feeding as in restaurants, factories and schools. The absence of such outbreaks testifies to the careful technique which is necessary in the kitchens of these places.

Minimum requirements for food premises as to sanitary provision, ventilation and cleanliness are laid down in Section 13 of this Act.

Now that the County Council have delegated to the Council powers under subsections 3, 4 and 5 of Section 38 of the Shop Act, 1950, the Council is responsible also for lighting, washing facilities and facilities for employees meals in shops.

The Council has adopted byelaws for the handling, wrapping and delivery of food and the sale of food in the open air.

Systematic inspection of food shops is being carried out, proprietors are required to comply with the statutory standards, and the food handlers called upon to exercise scrupulous cleanliness.

In pursuance of the Clean Food Campaign there has been a general feeling that dogs should not be allowed in food shops. The Minister of Food considered that in dealing with this problem an appeal to the public and the food trade would be more successful than prohibitive regulation.

The Council, acting on the Minister's recommendation, has asked food traders to display a notice signed by the Medical Officer of Health requesting customers not to bring dogs into food premises.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948

Section 47 : Removal to Suitable Premises of persons in Need of Care and Attention.

No application was made to the Court under this Section for the removal of aged or infirm people living in insanitary circumstances and unable to devote to themselves, and not receiving from other people, proper care and attention.

Visits have been made to a number of cases of this type but the Home Help Service was able to provide for the need of some of these lonely old people and enable them to carry on in their own homes.

The activity of the Old People's Clubs is particularly valuable in preventing bad conditions arising. Absentees from the meetings are visited and help, if required, is given at an early stage when it is most useful.

As an experiment the Old People's Welfare Committee is maintaining a register of old people living alone in the area.

They are visited from time to time and if experience shows that such a register is valuable the scheme will be extended to the rest of the county.

GENERAL PROVISIONS FOR HEALTH SERVICES

Ambulance Service

The Ambulance Service is maintained by the County Council and is obtained from Cheltenham Control Station (telephone Cheltenham 3112) and in emergency dialling "999" or "0" to the local Exchange and asking for "Ambulance Service".

The Ambulance Service is supplemented by a valuable hospital care service which is available for taking patients to and from appointments in connection with the National Health Service when the use of public transport is not possible. Requests for this Service should be made to the Control Station at Cheltenham, giving 48 hours notice of the requirement.

Nursing in the Home

The area is covered by the District Nursing Association under the control of the Health Committee of the County Council. Information is available from the Divisional Health Office, North East Area, Council Offices, Copt Elm Road, Charlton Kings, telephone No. Cheltenham 55746.

Child Welfare Centres

Meetings of the Charlton Kings Child Welfare Centre are held in the Holy Apostles Church Hall, London Road, every Tuesday at 2.30 p.m.

Home Help Service

This Service, which is organised by the County Council, has proved to be of great value to the community. The Home Help takes over the running of the home when the housewife is temporarily incapacitated. A charge is made according to a scale of assessment.

Appeals for assistance from the Home Help Service should be made through the Divisional Health Office, North East Area, Council Offices, Copt Elm Road, Charlton Kings, telephone No. Cheltenham 55746.

WATER SUPPLY

The Urban District is within the statutory water supply area of the Cheltenham Corporation Water Undertaking. The supply was satisfactory throughout the year both in respect of quality and quantity.

Thirty-two houses were connected to the public water main, comprising 28 new houses and 4 existing houses.

The following tables give the position with regard to a public piped supply:-

<u>Total</u>		(a) <u>Direct into</u> <u>house</u>	(b) <u>By</u> <u>Standpipe</u>
1,802	No. of houses	) supplied (1601	5
5,795	No. of popln	) mains (5,314	16

SECTION 20, HOUSING ACT, 1949

Section 20 of the Housing Act, 1949 empowers local authorities to make grants to private owners for the provision of dwellings by the conversion of houses and other buildings and for the improvement of existing dwellings.

No application for grant under this Section was received during the year, although a number of houses in the area might well qualify for such grant.

REPORT OF SANITARY INSPECTOR W.L. BOOY

Housing

Dwellinghouses inspected under Public Health and Housing Acts	...	...	...	...	...	...	31
Total number of housing visits	...	...	...	...	...	...	52
Number of houses found in all respects unfit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Number of houses found not in all respects fit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	...	...	19
Number of demolition orders made	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Number of houses demolished	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Number of notices served under Public Health Act, 1936	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
Number of notices complied with	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Inspection of accommodation occupied by housing applicants	...	...	...	...	...	...	81
Inspections re overcrowding	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Miscellaneous housing visits	...	...	...	...	...	...	57

Rehousing

The Council built 22 houses during the year, enabling many urgent cases for rehousing to be satisfied. To date the Council has concentrated on 3 bedroom houses, with a few larger houses to satisfy the needs of the big families. An analysis of the housing list made during the year revealed that the needs of those families remaining on the list could be met in a large proportion of cases by the provision of 2 bedroom flats and old people's dwellings. The future housing programme has been designed to take this factor into account.

Council Houses

The scheme set up in 1950, for direct labour repairs and maintenance, proved successful, and the labour staff has been increased. Headway is now being made in clearing up the arrears of maintenance which accumulated during the war years. The increased labour force has lead to an increase in administrative work, and has necessitated the setting up of a materials store capable of carrying an adequate stock.

Food Premises

Regular visits were made to food shops and similar premises during the year to ensure compliance with the provisions of Sections 13 and 14 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

The numbers of premises registered under Section 14 remained unchanged i.e.

Registered for the sale of ice cream	...	9
Registered for the sale of sausages and preserved foods	...	2

Summary of Visits and Inspections

Visits to Bakehouses	...	...	9
Visits to other Food Premises	..	...	33
Visits re meat and food inspection	...	...	28
Visits re sale of ice cream	...	...	6

Food Condemned

	cwt.	qr.	lb.	
Bacon and Ham	1	-	19	(Bacon ret. to wholesaler)
Carcase meat	1	-	26	(Returned to Abattoir)
Cheese		1	0	(Returned through trade channels)
Butter and fats			5	(-do- -do-)
Tinned meat			12)
" fruit	2	1	11)
" milk			17)
" fish			3)
" vegetables			25)
Shell eggs			9)
Frozen egg		1	0)
Dried milk		2	19)
Pickles and sundries			7)
Total	6	2	13	

Food Samples

2 samples of tinned cherries were taken from a large consignment to enable a decision to be taken as to fitness for human consumption. The necessary action was taken upon receipt of the analyst's report.

Verminous Premises

No cases of verminous premises were brought to notice.

Rodent Control

The working arrangement for rodent control, made some years ago with the Cheltenham Corporation, was discontinued and the Council appointed its own Pests Office who commenced his duties on 1st April.

The Council decided at the outset to give a free service to householders, and this approach has gained the widespread co-operation of the public.

The scheme took a month or two to get on a good working basis, but was operating very successfully by the end of the year.

The following is a summary of the visits made, etc., from April to December:

1. No. of infestations discovered:

	<u>Rats</u>	<u>Mice</u>
By complaint	47	18
By inspection	141	73

2. No. of inspections made:

Council properties	40
Dwellinghouses	733
Business premises	92
Agricultural properties -	38

3.. Total No. of Visits 2,087

4. Sewers - One treatment was carried out, 103 manholes were treated, of which no less than 75 were found to be rat infested.

Drainage and Other Works in Progress

296 visits were made to supervise drainage and other works in progress.

Moveable Dwellings

The number of licensed caravans did not increase appreciably although the demand for sites in neighbouring districts has not been satisfied. Anticipating indiscriminate siting of caravans, the Council considered at length the desirability of setting up a Council caravan site. The project was left over, to be reconsidered when there is a sufficient demand to warrant the relatively large capital outlay which would be involved.

Water Supply

4 houses were connected to the mains, and by the end of the year action was pending in respect of a further eleven properties.

37 visits were made, and 1 sample taken.

Factories Act, 1937

The number of factories on the register is 15. The majority were inspected and one notice relating to sanitary conveniences served.

General Sanitation

No. of visits re refuse collection	...	21
No. of visits re keeping of animals	...	18
Miscellaneous sanitary visits	...	23

